

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION

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February 25, 2003

FROM: **THOMAS R. LAURIN, DIRECTOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

SUBJECT: **2003-2004 HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
NEEDS IDENTIFICATION REPORT AND 2003-2004 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION  
PLAN**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) Conduct a public hearing to obtain citizens' views on current housing, community and economic development needs under the County's 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan; and,
- 2) Review the proposed Housing, Community and Economic Development Needs Identification Report for the fourth year of the County's 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan; and,
- 3) Approve the County's 2003-2004 Citizen Participation Plan.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Each year since 1975, the County of San Bernardino has qualified to receive federal housing and community development grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are used to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. In 2002, the County renewed its authority to receive these funds for fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005 under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) programs. To receive these grants, the County submitted a five-year strategy for meeting its housing and community development priority needs. This strategy was submitted to HUD in June 2000 and is referred to as the 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan.

The County's 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan covers the FY 2000-2001 through FY 2004-2005 period. As part of preparing the first year and each subsequent update of the five-year Consolidated Plan, the County gathered information on the community, housing, and economic development needs in the localities covered by the County's CDBG, ESG, and HOME programs. Additional information has been collected for the fourth year update to the County's 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan.

Federal regulations require grant recipients to hold at least two public hearings each year to obtain citizens' views, respond to proposals and questions, and address housing and community needs, development of proposed activities, and review program performance. This hearing satisfies the requirement for the first of the two public hearings. A second hearing is scheduled for April 1, 2003, to review the Action Plan for FY 2003-2004, which will become a part of the County's 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan. The Action Plan will identify how the County intends to allocate its 2003-2004 CDBG, ESG, and HOME funds.

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

The first two recommended actions will provide the basis for preparing the FY 2003-2004 Action Plan. This is accomplished through the review of the proposed **FY 2003-2004 Housing, Community and Economic Development Needs Identification Report**. The third recommended action establishes a process for encouraging citizen involvement in the development of the 2003-2004 grant application. The process is detailed in the proposed **FY 2003-2004 Citizen Participation Plan**. Together, these documents will be used to prepare the County's FY 2003-2004 update of the 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan for submission to HUD.

The **Needs Identification Report** was developed for the 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan from information gathered at twenty (20) Needs Identification Forums held in cooperating cities and unincorporated communities throughout the County during the Fall of 1999. Information received from County departments, cities, non-profit agencies, and from surveys received from agencies, citizens, adjoining jurisdictions, and from CDBG project proposals received for preparation of the 2000-2001 Action Plan were incorporated into the report. Additional information on community needs has been added from the project proposals received since October 2002, for the County's FY 2003-2004 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The **Citizen Participation Plan** identifies the County's goals and objectives for encouraging citizen participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan application process for the 2003-2004 update. At the conclusion of the public hearing, staff recommends approval of the Citizen Participation Plan for inclusion in the fourth update to the 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan has been approved annually since 1995. The proposed fourth update to the plan closely follows the prior year plan, except that an action step has been added to request proposals from qualified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to develop affordable housing under the HOME Program.

On February 4, 2003, the Board of Supervisors approved the scheduling of this public hearing and the publishing of the notice of hearing. The notice was published on or before February 11, 2003. The notice provides a thirty (30) day citizen comment period from February 11, 2003 to March 12, 2003. Draft copies of the Needs Identification Report and Citizen Participation Plan have been made available at ECD and at the Clerk of the Board's office for public review. Also, copies will be available at the Board Chambers, during the public hearing, for distribution to interested members of the public.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by the County Administrative Office, Patricia M. Cole, Administrative Analyst III on February 13, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All.

PRESENTER: Thomas R. Laurin, Director, 388-0808.